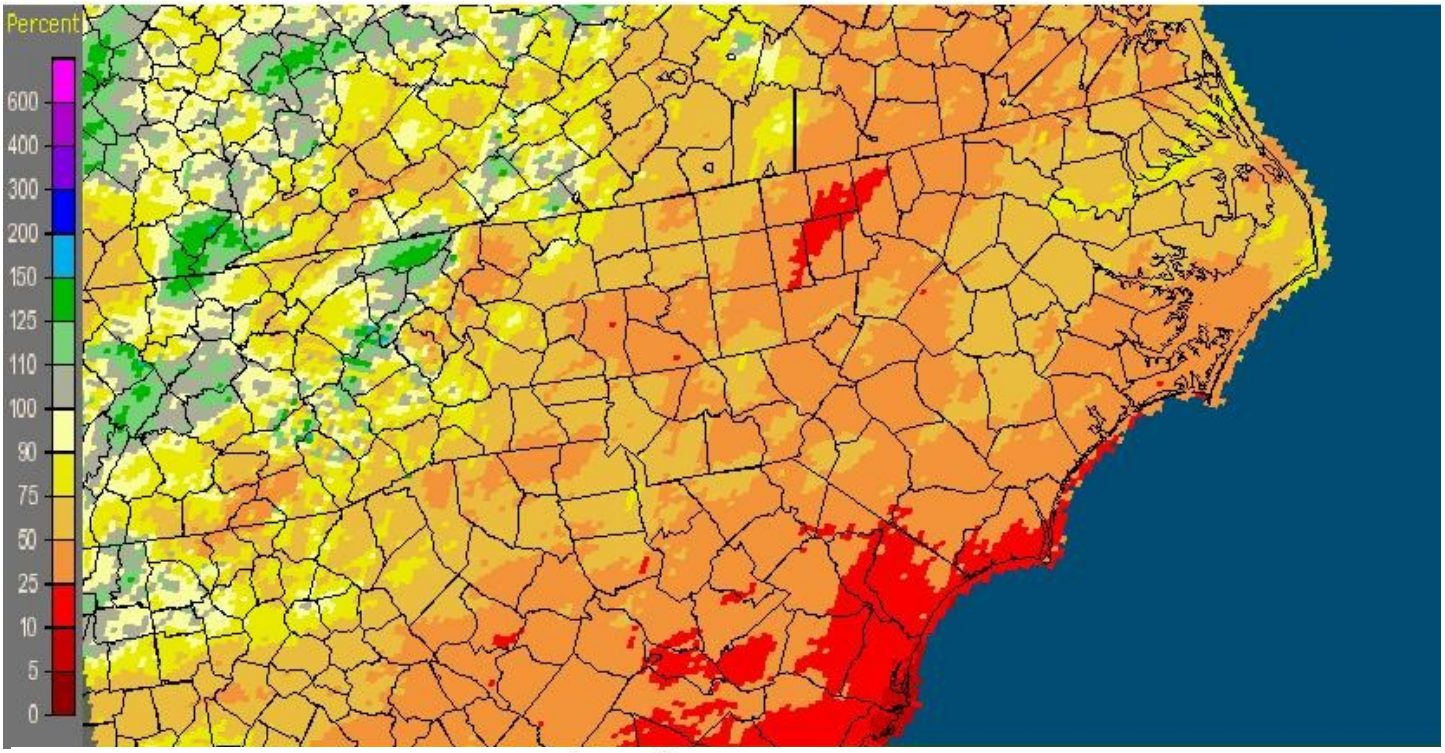
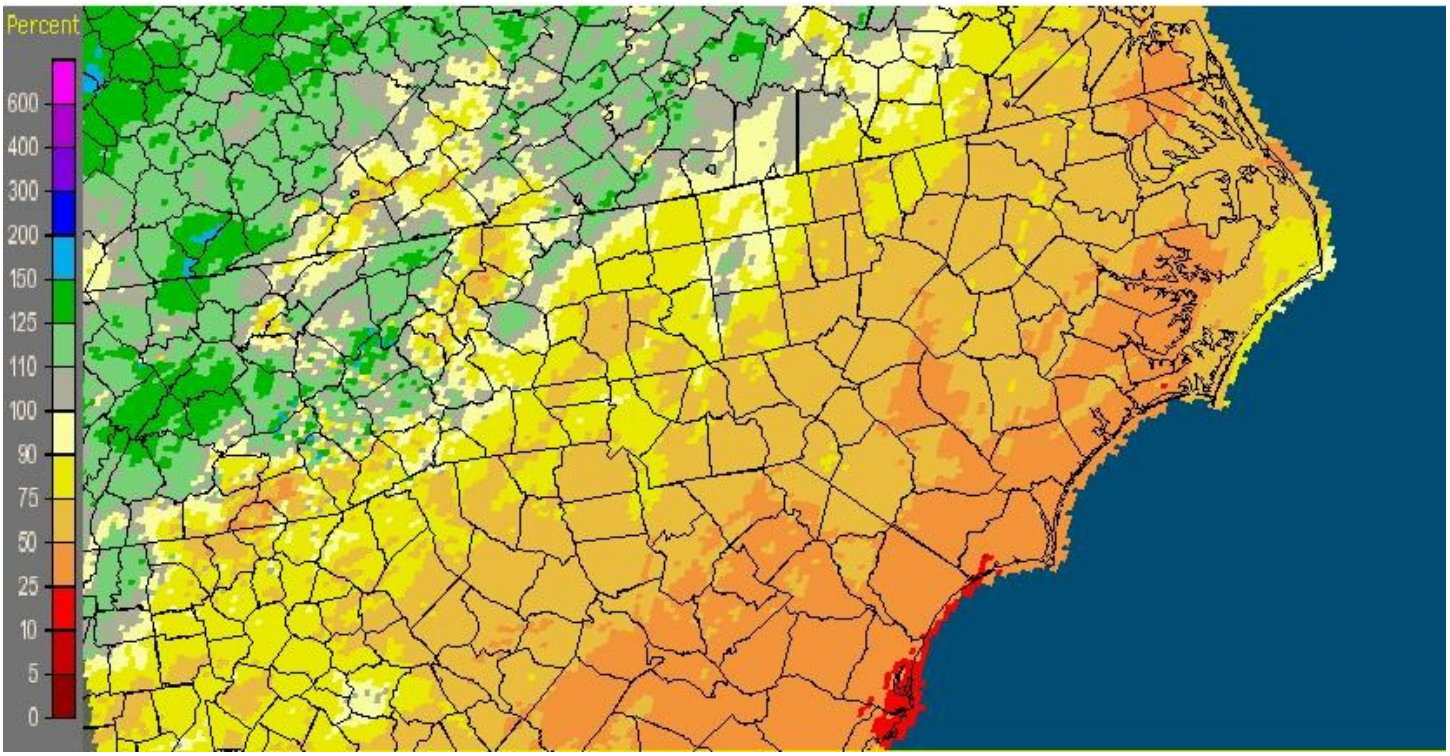
Drought Update 2/10/2012

During the winter months, drought impacts are at a minimum, and the NCDMAC and US Drought Monitor rely most heavily on rainfall deficit, stream flows, and soil moisture. There has been a growing rainfall deficit since Hurricane Irene, and central and eastern NC will be prone to 'flash drought' when warm temperatures arrive. Flash drought, as the name implies, seems to develop very quickly (reservoirs fall quickly, pasture is stunted, etc), but in reality, is already present but is exacerbated by increased evaporation and vegetative demand, as well as increased public consumption.

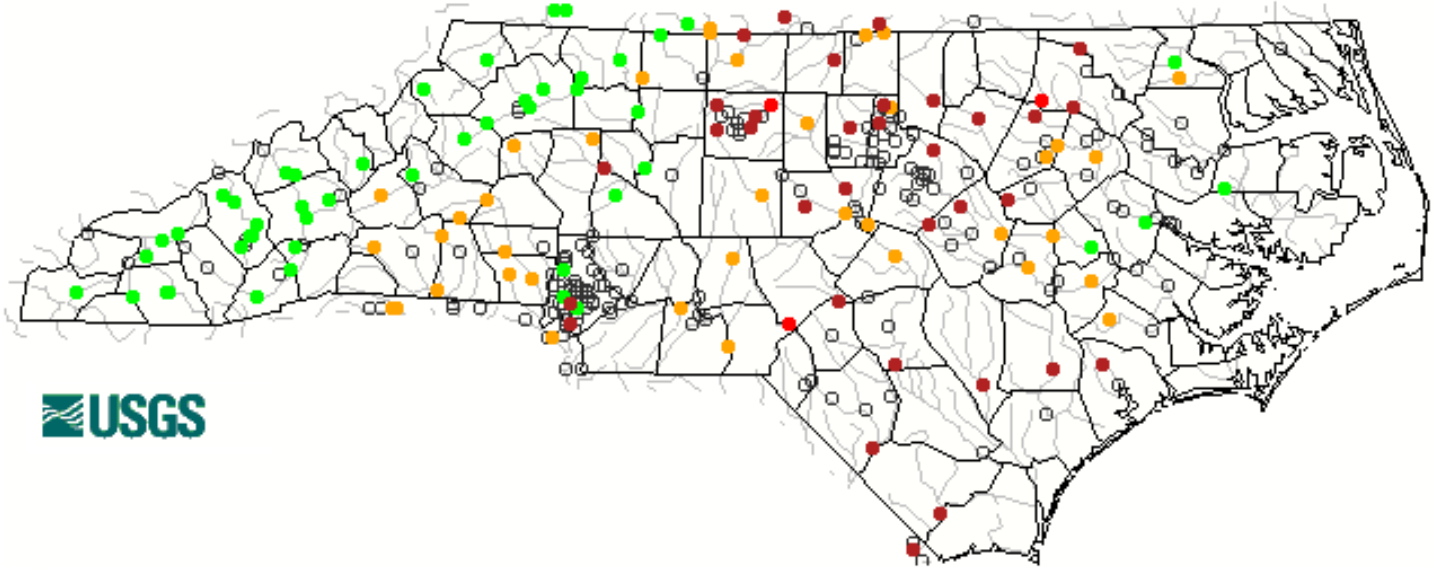
North Carolina: Current Year to Date Percent of Normal Precipitation
Valid at 2/9/2012 1200 UTC- Created 2/9/12 23:49 UTC



North Carolina: Current Water-Year (Oct 1) Percent of Normal Precipitation
Valid at 2/9/2012 1200 UTC- Created 2/9/12 23:53 UTC



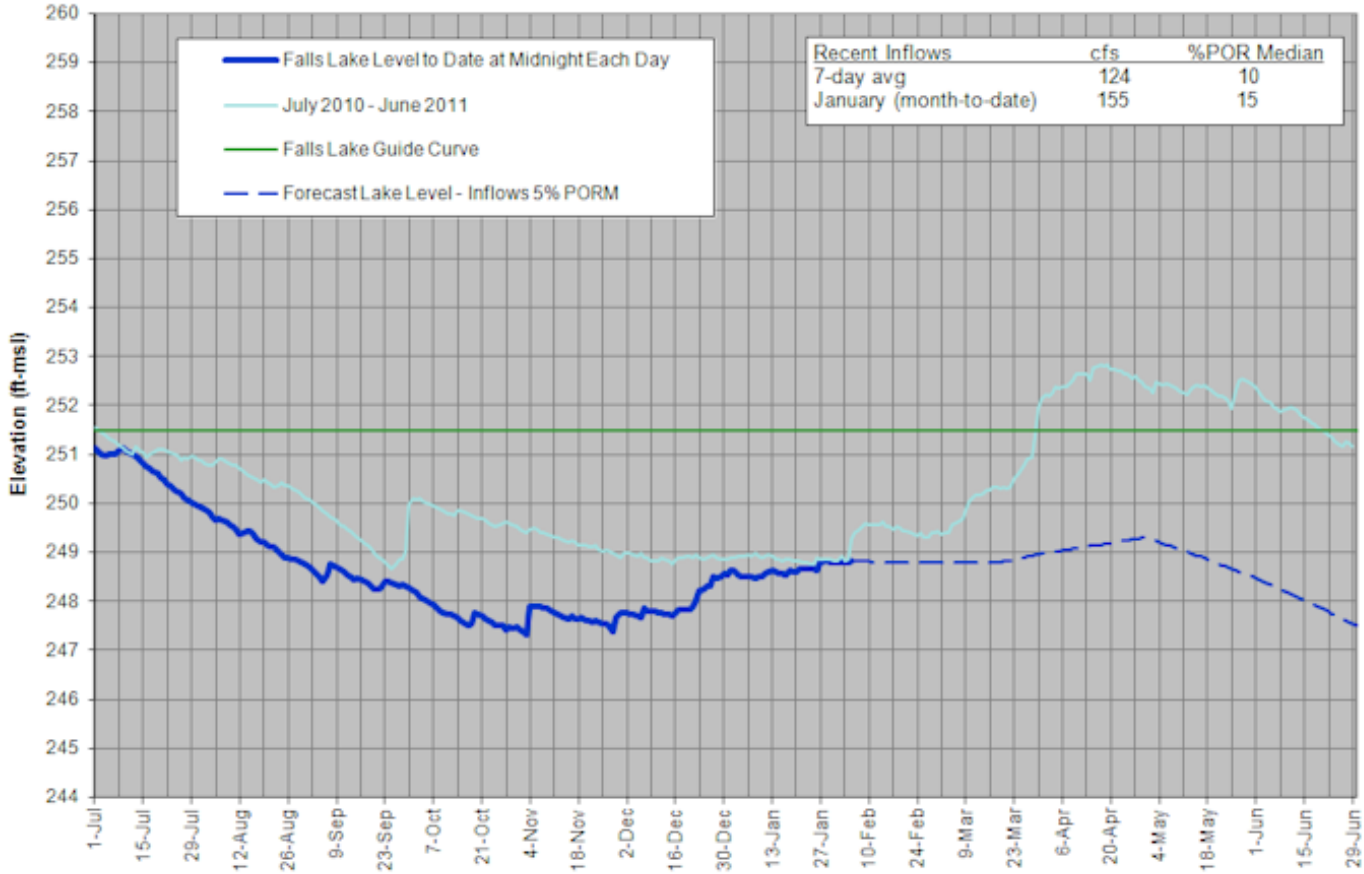
Map of real-time streamflow compared to historical streamflow for Feb 10, 2012

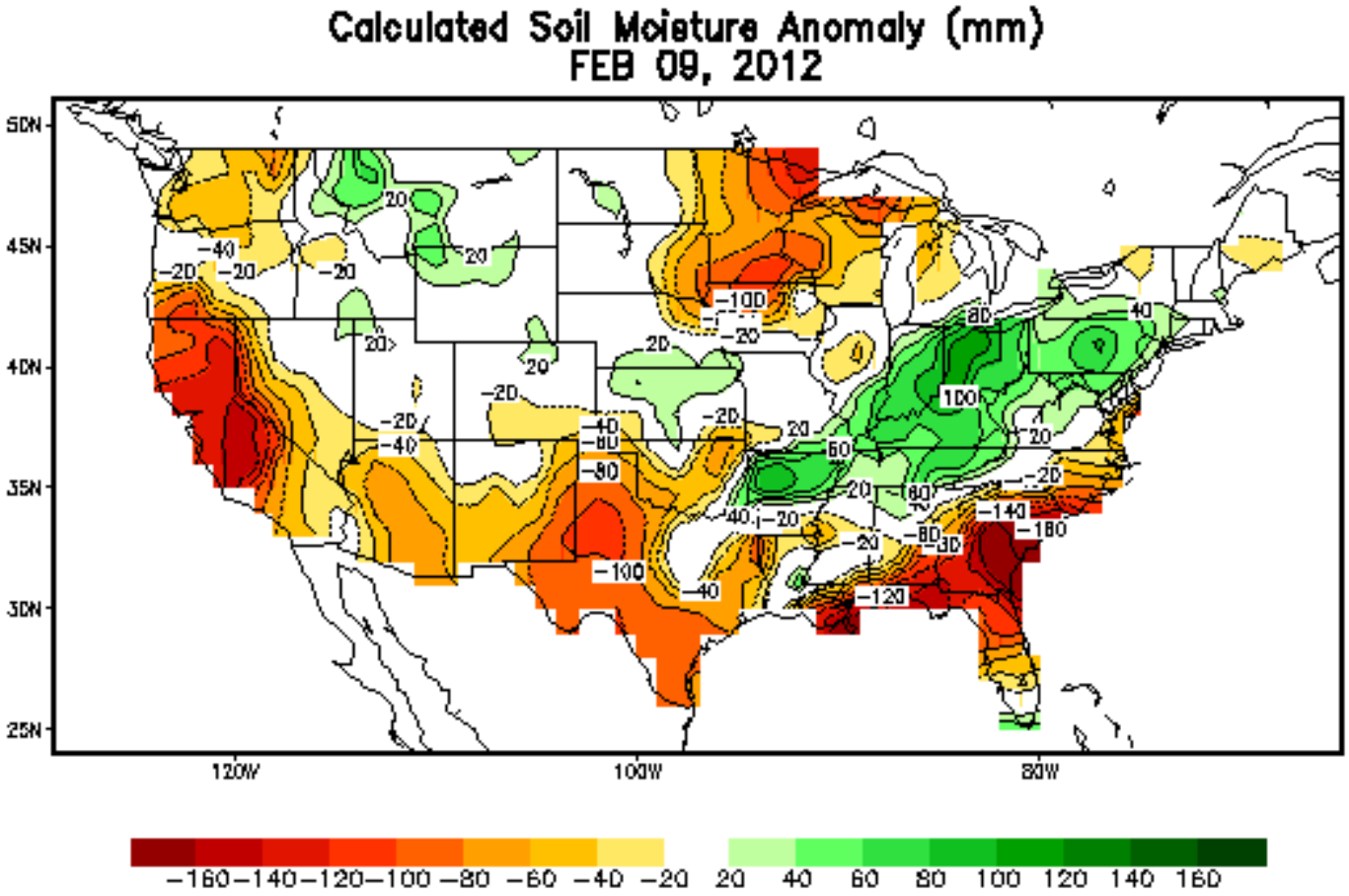


USGS

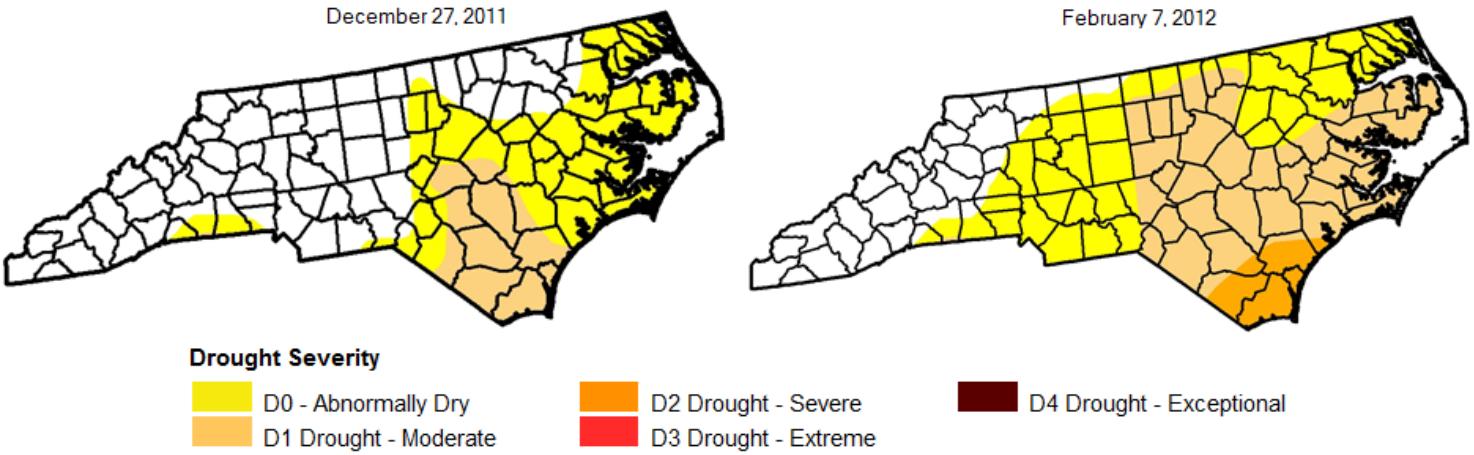
Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	Not-ranked
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Falls Lake Level - 06 Feb 2012





All of the RAH CWFA is now suffering from some degree of drought, it's merely masked by the fact that there is enough water in the lakes to keep the taps running. This will be subject to change, and rapidly, as the USACOE must increase releases from the lakes to facilitate fish spawning this spring, and evaporation increases enormously once temperatures start approaching 90. Note below how much areal increase there was in drought coverage during the past 5 weeks.



Week	Nothing	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
December 27, 2011	53.82	46.18	13.75	0.00	0.00	0.00
February 7, 2012	22.29	77.71	43.65	5.69	0.00	0.00